(c) whether numerous studies conducted by ICAR over last 10—15 years had reported higher levels of pesticides residue than permitted and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of samples of different fruits and vegetables tested and those found above permissible levels as indicated in part (c) above; and

(e) whether sample of water both above ground and underground are being tested regularly for pesticides; and if so, the detals thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Government has seen the news report, a copy of which is annexed (*See* below)

(b) The Government has no authentic report on the discussion in National Core-group meeting on the 20th and 21st February, 1989.

(c) Some sporadic studies carried out by ICAR show presence of pesticides in fruits and vegetables in excess of the permissible limit.

(d) Approximately 25% market samples of certain vegetables were found to be contaminated with DDT residues in excess of the permissible levels.

(e) Under the Technology Mission on Drinking Water in villages and Related Water Management, regular tests are conducted to check the physical and Chemical quality of water. Regular tests are also conducted to monitor the river Ganga and a few of its tributaries since November, 1986 on a monthly basis by collecting water samples from 27 different locations in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The water samples have been analysed for residues of 12 major pesticides and their motabolites/isomars. The analytical collected so far did not show any definite pattern of variations.

*Copy of News Report that appeared in Newstime dated* 1-3-1989

**US Plans Campaign to Tighten Law on Pesticides**

REUTER

A US consumer group. warning that pesticide residues in fruit and vegetables pose a risk to children's health says it plans nationwide campaign to lobby for tighter federal limit to press Congress for changes in the pesticide laws. The national resources defenee council (NRDC) said on Monday a two-year study found that legally allowable pesticide residues in the most commonly eaten fruits and vegetables cause cancer and nerve damage in children.

The study, which the group said was the most comprehensive ever done on the topic, estimated that 4,500 to 6,200 children now aged five or younger would develop cancer sometime during their lives as a result of pesticide residues that met existing federal health standards. The NRDC said at least three million young children were being exposed to pesticides capable of damaging the nervous system at levels above those called safe by the federal government. The report studied 23 pesticides and 27 types of produce.

**Pesticide Deaths**

1225. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 150 pesticide deaths

were reported in Jaipur alone during 1987-88, and if so, the details thereof?

(b) whether Government would make pesticide poisoning a notifiable incident throughout the country through suitable legislation and through an Ordinance in the interregnum period;

(c) whether Government had received, investigated and compiled any similar reports either through the Central Government Officers located all over the country or through State Governments or through its network of Press Information Officers from news-paper reports and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government would involve some of the Non Government Organisations engaged actively in this task?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) State Governments have been already empowered under Section 26 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 to notify the persons responsible for reporting occurrences of poisoning due to pesticides.

(c) The following incidences of poisoning due to pesticides have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years:—

| Sl. No. | State | Year | Total No. of poisoning cases | Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Gujarat | 1986 | 6 | 6 |
| 2. | Tamilnadu | 1986 | 5 | 5 |
| 3. | Punjab | 1986-87 | 126 | 126 |
| 4. | Kerala | 1987 | 40 | .. |
| 5. | Andhra Pradesh | 1988 | 16 | .. |

(d) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

**Pesticides endangering Health of children**

1226. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Baby Foods, including weaning foods have been found to be dangerous sources of pesticides endangering health of children as reported in the TIME of the 6th March, 1989;

(b) whether it is a fact that studies in India by ICAR and other shows heavy presence of pesticides in foods;

(c) whether Government are aware that Apples are also exposed to heavy doses of pesticides;

(d) whether Government are aware that some of the popular brands of infant weaning foods